



ALONG THE SLOPES of Mt. Shasta are 14 miles of two-lane road weaving through the high-elevation forest to the tree line where the timber ends and the trails to the summit begin. Starting in Mount Shasta City, Everitt Memorial Highway leads, in the summer months, to the old Ski Bowl parking lot, the highest point you can drive on the mountain. In the winter, the road stops at Bunny Flat where the snowplow turns around. Every season, the trip reveals stunning views of the valley and mountains to the west along the way.

The winding highway is named after Shasta National Forest Supervisor John Samuel Everitt. His offices for the Shasta National Forest were housed at the current ranger district offices in the city below. Everitt's career began with positions in the Forest Service in the Lassen, Plumas, San Bernardino and Stanislaus National Forests. In 1934, he was appointed to the Mount Shasta headquarters as the head of the Shasta National Forest.

When the Shasta Ski Bowl opened, the highway linked the city to downhill skiing. In the same year, the ski bowl set a world record for the most snowfall in a single storm, collecting 16 feet of snow in five days. Despite continual whiteouts and avalanches, the Ski Bowl remained in operation until 1978 when a devastating avalanche wiped out the main chair lift.

Now the buildings are gone, but in the summer months, the old parking lot remains a gateway for climbers to begin their ascents while picnickers dine at the picnic table overlooking the valley.

Just below the Old Ski Bowl, Panther Meadows invites summer hikers to a variety of trails. Below the meadows, Bunny Flat beckons summer hikers to its trailhead and winter enthusiasts to a wonderland. At 6,950 feet, a paved parking lot is open year round. When it snows, the sound of snowmobiles roars over the powdered snow surrounded by walls of pines. ▶

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